

Our Journey's End and Beginning

Yippee!! Easter Day is April 21st! At 8 weeks old I was taken by my parents and godparents for baptism: It was April 21st and Easter Day. I had begun my journey with Jesus Christ.

It delighted me to discover years later it had been Easter Day for ALL Christians. Western and Eastern Churches Easter is often weeks apart. It's never been Easter day again on my baptism date but will be this year, and 2030. It'll be Easter on this date for all Christians when (if alive) I'm 84 and 95.

So April 2019 begins with us half-way on the journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. 'Journeying' is a dominant theme in Lent. We 'journey' with Jesus on the way to Jerusalem, to death, the grave and resurrection. In the early centuries of the Church adults and young people preparing for baptism associated themselves with Christ by going on an intensive 'journey' of prayer and teaching; preparing to 'die' to their old life and to 'rise' to a new life **in Christ** at their baptism during the dawning light of Easter day. Such a journey showed how seriously the Church took this and how committed *the candidates were* about it. Lent is still the 'proper' period for adults to prepare for baptism, confirmation and communion.

After the Church had spread widely throughout the Roman Empire the Lenten season was also used for the excommunicated such as 'notorious' sinners and any who'd

fallen away during troubles, to undergo a 'journey' of intensive public *penitence* in Lent. This was so they might experience, at Easter, a 'resurrection' by becoming, once again, full members of the Church, the family of Christ. It's from this later practice that our present Lent developed as a period for every Christian to prepare for the renewal, on Easter Eve and Easter Day, of their baptism vows.

The above scenarios all emphasise *the end* of one way of life and *the beginning* of a new one. For those who take **Lent WITH Easter** seriously there will always be a type of death and resurrection as one journey ends and another begins. It was one reason I finished ministry in my previous parish on Easter Day arriving later in Higham in Eastertide. For us, our former Church, and our new one, a new life, a new journey was underway; different for each group but each journey accompanied by the same Easter Christ.

S.Paul urges us to *die to self and to live for Christ*. Any Christian journey, wherever we are, wherever it takes us, inevitably features 'death and resurrection'. Yet, accompanied by the risen Jesus, not the dead one, in every season of the Church, indeed every day, in Easter faith and Easter hope we can journey with him who, the Book of Revelation calls the Alpha and the Omega, our beginning and our end.

Father James

The Bridge

Monthly Magazine of the Parish of Higham (Ss. John & Mary) with Merston

WORSHIP AT S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

EVERY	Morning Prayer	(said)	8.45 am
SUNDAY	PARISH MASS	(sung)	9.30 am
	<i>with Junior Church & Very Junior Church</i>		
	Evening Prayer	(said)	6.00 pm

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: Said Mass 9.30 am & Solemn Mass 7.30 pm
Solemn Evening Prayer & Benediction on Sundays - *as announced.*

THE DAILY MASS TIMES	Monday	6.30 pm	DAILY MORNING PRAYER
	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Each day at 9 am
	Wednesday	9.30 am	* * * * *
	Thursday	7.30 pm	DAILY EVENING PRAYER
	Friday	9.30 am	Each day at 6 pm
	Saturday	9.30 am	(<i>except Tue. & Thur. at 7 pm</i>)

PARISH The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward
PRIEST Telephone 01634-717360
Email saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk

The Vicarage, Hermitage Rd.
Higham, Kent, ME3 7NE.
* * * * *

PLEASE NOTE: FATHER JAMES IS NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY

Marriages, Banns of Marriage, Baptism, Confirmation and other general enquiries:
Father James is usually available, in Church, for initial enquiries about these on
TUESDAYS 8.15 pm and SATURDAYS 10.30 am
It is always advisable to telephone and make an appointment in each case.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession and absolution)
is available on Fridays at 6.30 pm or by appointment with Fr. James

Information/requests relating to funerals, ministry to the sick and dying,
Holy Communion at home or in hospital should be given to Father James.



In an emergency please contact him at any time or, if he is not available, one of
the Churchwardens (details below).

HON. ASSTIST. PRIEST	FATHER PETER BOLTON 17 HERMITAGE ROAD, HIGHAM	TEL: 01474 822726
THE	Mrs Teresa Joblin Hill Cottage Telegraph Hill, Higham	Tel: 01474-823186
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Helen Walker 11 S. John's Road, Higham	* Tel: 01474-396569
CHURCH HALL MANAGER	Mrs Julie Healey -	* Tel: 01474-822008

* Evening calls only on these numbers please

April 2019 at S. John's, Higham

Calendar and Mass Intentions

MASS) SUNDAYS WEEK) Mon. 6.30pm; Tu. & Th., 7.30pm;
 TIMES) Sung Mass 9.30am DAYS) Wed, Fri. & Sat. 9.30am.

EXCEPTIONS or ADDITIONAL TIMES see shaded boxed areas below

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
Mon	1st	Lent Feria (Wk 4)	Anxious/bereaved parents
Tue	2nd	Lent Feria	The disabled
Wed	3rd	Lent Feria	The Judiciary
Th.	4th	Lent Feria	Judeo-Christian dialogue
Fri	5th	Lent Feria	Hospice staff / workers
Sat	6th	Lent Feria	The Police Forces
SUN	7th	5th SUNDAY OF LENT	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	8th	Lent Feria	Victims of injustice
Tue	9th	Lent Feria	Society of the Holy Cross
Wed	10th	Lent Feria	Divided families
Th.	11th	Lent Feria	RIP's & anniversaries
Fri	12th	Lent Feria	The Persecuted Church
Sat	13th	Lent Feria	Walsingham
SUN	14TH	PALM SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	15th	Monday of Holy Week 6.30pm	The PEV's
Tue	16th	Tuesday of Holy Week 7.30pm	The lapsed
Wed	17th	Wednesday of Holy Week 9.30am	Our Enemies
TH.	18TH	MAUNDY THURSDAY 8pm	Parish priests
FRI	19TH	GOOD FRIDAY 3pm	(+) Gratitude to Christ Crucified
SAT	20TH	HOLY SATURDAY 9pm Easter Eve Vigil Mass	The renewal of the Christian faithful
SUN	21ST	EASTER DAY 10AM	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	22nd	Easter Monday - Bank Holiday 10am	(f) Newly baptised/confirmed
Tue	23rd	Easter Tuesday	(f) The bereaved
Wed	24th	Easter Wednesday	(f) All Communicants
Th.	25th	Easter Thursday	(f) Messianic Jews
Fri	26th	Easter Friday	(f) Atheists & agnostics
Sat	27th	Easter Saturday	(f) Christian missionaries
SUN	28TH	2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Low Sunday)	(+) THE PARISH
MON	29th	S.CATHERINE of Siena Teacher, Mystic	(f) European Religious
Tue	30th	S.GEORGE Martyr 9.30am PATRON OF ENGLAND 6.30pm	(S) Christians in the Forces English Christians

KEY: (+) Holy Day of Obligation; (S) Solemnity; (f) Feast; (m) Memoria; (v) votive.

APRIL 'REQUIEM' INTENTION

is on Thursday 11th April 2019 at 7.30pm

*The recently departed, and those named below, will be prayed for at this Mass.
Those named below are also remembered the Sunday before and on the date itself.*

2 nd	Hazel Bate		Lilian Emily Aldina Irvine
3 rd	Audrey Rogers		Francis William Waterhouse
4 th	James Frederick Lewing	18 th	Jean Dilks
5 th	Hilary Eileen Glenister	19 th	Peter Poulton
6 th	Alan Tearle Ford		Eunice Erena Frier
	Mervyn W ^m Shakespeare Hudson	20 th	John William Burrow <i>PRIEST</i> *
7 th	Miriam Bramhall	21 st	Gladys Irene Hance
	Mildred Glendinning		Peter George Lee
	Annie Findlay		Stephen John Hall
9 th	Irene Florence Elizabeth Hill	23 rd	Martha Helen Jasper
10 th	Pamela Mavis Perkins	24 th	Roger William Davison <i>PRIEST</i>
11 th	Matthew Merrikin <i>PRIEST</i> *		Bertha Elizabeth Price
	Kathleen Lockett		Harry Dean Ruck <i>Baby</i>
	Constance <u>Dorothy</u> Harper	25 th	George Cantrell Allen <i>PRIEST</i> *
12 th	Rose Emily Pope		Brenda Rosetta Nunn
	Robyn James Dyke		Robert <u>Allan</u> Price
13 th	Peggy Hughes	26 th	Eileen Mary Rice
	James Thomas ['Jim'] Agnew		Jean Doris Pritchard
14 th	Leslie John Gibbs	27 th	Frank Carruthers
	George Edward Bentley		Ann-Marie Figg
15 th	Lilian Walker	28 th	John Herbert Wheeldon
	Dorothy Titheridge	29 th	George William Summers
16 th	Sonia Walton	30 th	Michael Smith
	Winston Dilks		Geoffrey Richard Poole

**LORD, BY YOUR CROSS AND RESURRECTION
YOU HAVE SET US FREE!
YOU ARE THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD!**

PLEASE NOTE: Names of those deceased more than 20 years are removed from the list (except where it is known that someone continues to attend this mass to pray for them). They can be included by name IF someone attends this requiem mass AND requests the inclusion of their name in the prayers.

~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

ONLY A FEW MINUTES A DAY following the readings used at Daily Mass
in Church - even if you can't be there. Choose one or both readings.

There are three readings for Sundays and special holy days.

M	Isaiah 65.17-21	John 4.43-54
T	Ezekiel 47.1-9.12	John 5.1-3.5-16
W	Isaiah 49.8-15	John 5.17-30
Th	Exodus 32.7-14	John 5.31-47
F	Wisdom 2.1.12-22	John 7.1-2.10.25-30
S	Jeremiah 11.18-20	John 7.40-52

SUNDAY - LENT 5

APRIL 7th

Isaiah 43.16-21 Philippians 3.8-14
John 8.1-11

M	Daniel 13.1-9.15-62	John 8.1-11
T	Numbers 21.4-9	John 8.21-30
W	Daniel 3.14-28	John 8.31-42
Th	Genesis 17.3-9	John 8.51-59
F	Jeremiah 20.10-13	John 10.31-42
S	Ezekiel 37.21-28	John 11.45-56

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

APR 14TH

PALM GOSPEL: Luke 19.28-40

Isaiah 50.4-7 Philippians 2.6-11

THE PASSION Luke 23.1-49

M	Isaiah 42.1-7	John 12.1-11
T	Isaiah 49.1-6	John 12.21-33.36-38
W	Isaiah 50.4-9	Matt. 26.14-25

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 18TH

Exodus 12.1-8,11-14 1 Corinth 11.23-26
John 13. 1-15

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 19TH

Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12 Hebr. 4.14-16, 5.7-9
John 18.1 - 19.42

HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 20TH

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Genesis 1.1-2.2 | 2) Genesis 22.1-18 |
| 3) Exodus 14.15-15.1 | 4) Isaiah 55.1-11 |
| 5) Ezekiel 36.16-28 | 6) Romans 6.3-11 |
| 7) Luke 24.1-12 | |

EASTER WEEK

EASTER DAY

APRIL 21ST

Acts 10.34, 37-43

Colossians 3.1-4 or 1Corinthians 5.6-8

John 20.1-9 (am) or Luke 24.13-35 (pm)

M	Acts 2.14. 22-33	Matt. 28.8-15
T	Acts 2.36-41	John 20.11-18
W	Acts 3.1-10	Luke 24.13-35
Th	Acts 3.11-26	Luke 24.35-48
F	Acts 4.1-12	John 21.1-14
S	Acts 4.13-21	Mark 16.9-15

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28TH

Acts 5.12-16 Revelation 1.9-19

John 20.19-31

M S.Catherine of Siena

Apr.29th

T S.GEORGE

APRIL 30TH

Revelation. 12.10-12

2 Tim. 2.8-13; 3.10-12

John 15.18-21 or John 15.1-8

*The Solemnity is transferred from
23rd April because Holy Week and
Easter Week take precedence over
any other festival*

End by using the Sunday Bulletin 'Opening Prayer' or this 'Prayer after Reading Scripture'

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so
to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience,
and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

HiARA REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

Peter Jones gave a very enthusiastic talk on “How to do Everything and be Happy!” at the meeting held on February 22nd.

A prolific author, he spoke about his early childhood and various jobs in banking. After consulting an “Image consultant” life improved and he began to write. Following several rejections on his books and articles he began to self fund (publish) his own publications. A couple of years later he added audio books and leaflets to his literature on self improvement and was very successful. Members were able to chat further with him and purchase from his selection of books, which he was very happy to sign.

The annual Bring and buy sale was once again popular and the monies received will go to our 2018 charity, The Wisdom Hospice. March marks the end of our year of fundraising for them and we will be presenting our donation to them at the April AGM. Members then chose the charity for 2019, which will be Alzheimer’s and Dementia Support Services and their representative will be at the March meeting to explain more about the work their Charity does.

All our other activities continue to be well supported with more members taking part every week. Several coach outings have been arranged and an afternoon tea at the North Kent College. The “Ramblers” group are off to Bournemouth for their early year break.

We welcomed several new people at this meeting and having spoken to them they were very interested and keen to join at the April AGM.

Our next quiz is on March 29th at 1.30pm. The speaker at our March main meeting on 22nd is Paul Harris, all about his book. Believe.

Perhaps you would like to come along? You would be most welcome.

Call into Higham Memorial Hall any Friday afternoon from 1.30 pm; ask for Jenny or a committee member, who will give you further information.

*Pat Oakshott
HiARA Publicity*



St John's Church

Lent Lunches

We are hosting a series of Soup Lunches
for charity on these Saturdays

9th March
23rd March
6th April

16th March
30th March
13th April

All in support of



At the
Vestry Hall
12- 1.30 pm

YOU MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE

Come and join us!

Lunch includes:

Homemade soup,
bread, cheese, grapes, tea/coffee

£5.00

MATTER MATTERS

On the 25th March we celebrated the fact that the Eternal Son of the Father took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The Word became flesh. For us men and women and for our salvation. He took cells from the Blessed Virgin Mary and became one with Humanity. One with us. Those human cells grew and died as our cells grow and die. In his mother's womb he developed and reached full term. She was aware of his presence as a physical reality: she knew morning sickness and could feel him kick.

The Word became flesh. God knew what it was like to be hungry, to graze his knee, to ache. He felt sea sickness when the storm blew up on his friend's boat. He cried and knew the physical pain of bereavement when his friend Lazarus died. God wept.

God was present in our world: in our world of pain and death; hunger and disease; blindness and deafness; leprosy and paralysis; epilepsy and terrifying storms. And God touched it. He touched our pain and humility our sadness and our loss. He physically touched us. He touched the eyes of the blind man; the ears of the deaf man; the tongue of the one who was dumb. And in her humility, and shame, and fear, and hopelessness, the woman whose bleeding could not be stopped dared to touch God.

And that presence brought healing. Because God has made himself one with us, because he has touched us, he has healed us.

God touched our brokenness. He became one with us. He touched our death. On the cross his body touched the wood. His body was pierced by the nails. His body was flogged. His head was crowned with a crown of thorns and his blood was spilt. His body writhed in agony for hours as he knew physical dereliction. God knew what it was like to be physically separated from God. "My God" he cried, "My God! Why have you forsaken me?"

On Good Friday we celebrate the fact that the Eternal Son of the Father took flesh and died on the Cross. For us men and women and for our salvation.

And God was thirsty.

And Thomas said, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Thomas understood this: Matter matters. Thomas needed to touch God. Thomas knew that God’s flesh mattered because our flesh matters. For Thomas, if God had just died that would be the end. Thomas knew that unless he could touch those precious wounds, his own flesh could not be healed. Unless he could touch the wounded hands and put his hand in His Saviour’s side there could be no salvation for Thomas, his own wounds could not be mended.

Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Only the crucified one is worthy of our worship. Only the one who shows us the marks the nails have made and who shows us His wounded side deserves to be called, “God”.

So, on the night that He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread. Matter matters. Jesus might have said: “Every Sunday read words about me and think about me” but he didn’t do that. He took bread. And in a similar way he took the chalice (almost overflowing) with w

Bread and wine. The daily essentials. Bread: the staple food of countless millions of people. Bread: which for the want of men and women go hungry. Wine: the basic ingredient of any good party. Wine: which has destroyed the lives of so many. Bread and wine. These become the means through which God chooses to touch us. This is my body. This is my blood. Because matter matters. And God wants to touch us and bring us healing and to experience our lives being transformed by Him.

And so, every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim His death until he comes again. At every Mass we touch the Jesus who died for us. Just like the woman who touched the hem of his garment we touch him and he brings us healing and wholeness. And he touches us. He touches and brings healing to every part of us. He touches us in our pain, our brokenness, our blindness, our deafness, our paralysis, our grief and our sense of God-forsakenness. He touches us and brings us healing and forgiveness.

God is not remote. He is here. Physically present. Really present. Now. Today. In bread and in wine. Here at St John's and everywhere where Mass is celebrated. For us men and women and for our salvation. Because to God, our flesh matters.

God bless you as you continue to journey through Lent and Holy Week to the hope of the Resurrection.

Fr Peter

SMILE LINE

Moses and the Red Sea

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. 'Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

"When he got to the Red Sea, Moses had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed HQ for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, startled.

"Well, no," her son admitted. "But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Source: Parish Pump

You are invited for tea and biscuits



Got a question, idea or complaint about Higham or just want to have a chat then why not drop in and join your Community Warden and local Councillors

on

the last Thursday

of every month

Any time between

2.30 pm and 4.00 pm

In the Library

Higham Parish Council





**Join in and help keep your village clean
and tidy.**

HIGHAM LITTER PICK
SATURDAY 30TH
SUNDAY 31ST MARCH
PHONE/TEXT 07480 518293
FOR DETAILS OF TIMES
& LOCATIONS

WWW.HIGHAM-KENT-PC.GOV.UK

HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Assembly

Thursday 11th April, 2019

at

7:30 pm

Higham Memorial Hall

Featuring a talk by Tammy Woodhouse on
"The History of Millbrook Garden Centre"

Tammy will give us an insight into how this
family business was started 40 years ago.

Buffet table will be provided.

LOW WALLS AND HIGH WALLS

The churchyard wall of St John's is in a sorry state collapsed in rubble, fortunately in the churchyard rather than in the road. Apparently the wall was originally built with stone from the old Rochester bridge which was rebuilt about the same time as St John's was built (1862). It will, in due course, be rebuilt as serves a very important purpose. It marks out the churchyard as a sacred space surrounding the church, even though it is not a cemetery. St Mary's churchyard is a similar sacred space, first mentioned in a document of 1155 although it is considerably older than this date. These walls are deliberately low to emphasise that they are not built to keep people 'out'.

Other walls serve other purposes. Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland marked the Northern limit of the Roman Empire and controlled the border, making it safe, and allowed trade with the tribes living in the lands beyond. The Berlin Wall was erected at the height of the Cold War in 1961 to divide East and West Germany and especially to prevent East Germans defecting to the West. Many died trying to get over it. It was a great day for freedom when the wall finally fell in November 1989. The wall on the Israeli/Palestine Territory border built for security has controlled violence but brought great daily hardship for those living beyond it. President Trump's proposed Mexican Wall is designed to stop illegal immigration into the USA. It will probably do this but it will also divide further different parts of the human family and increase our tendency to turn a blind eye to so much misery in the world. In our own society more and more houses are being built in 'gated' enclaves for protection but also for social prestige and to keep the 'riffraff' out.

I was once visiting a parishioner in Belmarsh prison. It is a modern prison with modern security systems. I was very aware that the walls, not very thick, marked the division between two totally different worlds – that of the prison with its own world of routine and purpose, and that of normal life taking its course only a few feet away. But the division was painfully clear.

Our church communities easily fence ourselves in to protect the integrity of our faith community. This is especially true of smaller parishes or Christian institutions with the result that there is little chance of growth. In the letter to the Ephesians St Paul, referring to different 'parties' in the emerging church, says that Jesus Christ 'has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is the hostility between us'. We are all one in Christ and don't need to separate ourselves from one another. The Church that Jesus founded breaks down barriers and unites people of widely different backgrounds and nationalities together. It is essentially 'Catholic', embracing all people of all races, conditions and times. Our human tendency is to split and divide from each other. How obvious this is in political life with all its party strife and divisions. The call of the Gospel is for us to rise above these divisions and call humanity back into one family under God. It is predicted that by 2050 there will be a quarter of a billion practising Christians in China which would mean that communist and atheist China will be the biggest Christian community in the world. I wonder what influence that would have on Chinese society and on the idea of the Christian church spreading across all nations and being a community bound by the love of God in Jesus Christ. So much for the accusation that Christianity is a Western religion! We must always work to break down the walls of division between us, however 'safe' they make us. The 'One' Church will be so much more effective in healing the wounds of divided humanity if it clearly seen to be united in itself. This is, of course, much harder to put into practice but we can work at it all the time, in greater and smaller ways.

St John's wall will soon be rebuilt and be sturdier than before. It will not keep people out or keep us in. It will be a sign of the sacred place to which God calls us all to meet with his Son Jesus Christ who unites us all in his Church here on earth and finally in his eternal Kingdom.

Fr Andrew



HIGHAM POPPY PROJECT



World War Two 1939 - 1945

2019 marks the **80th Anniversary** of the start of **World War Two**. Higham **Knit and Natter Group** are working on an idea to make poppies over the next 6 years to go on display around the village.

The annual displays would be in various places (indoors and outdoors) running from **late October and until just after Remembrance Day**.

The poppies will be stored each year and gradually more poppies will be made so that by **2025 we will have a fantastic display and memorial to all those who lost their lives in WWII**.

If your business or public building would like to have some poppies to go on display – let us know.

If you would like to make some poppies we can provide instructions for knitting or crafting the flowers. We have some materials or you can use your own. Just get in touch with us – email address below.

If you would like to get involved in the project in any other way or have some ideas please let us know.

Contact us via email:
barbara.cousins@btinternet.com

The **Knit and Natter Group** meets every Tuesday evening in Higham Library – if you would like to join us or want to learn to knit or crochet you are very welcome to join us anytime between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm. Members of the group are also knitting squares to make colourful blankets for the Medway Maritime Hospital to assist those with dementia. The blankets are an aid to patients in finding their beds and are taken home with them when

they leave the hospital. If you have any odd balls of double knitting wool that could be used for this purpose please do let us have them. Contact bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk to arrange this.

Each week the group makes a small donation to funds and to date have raised £350 towards another defibrillator to be installed within the village.



The Easter Egg Hunt

We seek them here, we seek them there,
We seek those cream eggs everywhere!
Within the church, within the ground
Those hidden eggs which must be found!

The pulpit steps? The hymn book stand?
The lectern we've already scanned
Behind that pew? I'll need a torch!
Perhaps one's hidden in the porch!

Aha! At last! I'm happy now!
No more I search! No furrowed brow!
I found my egg which tastes so good
Within the Vicar's vestment hood!

Source: Parish Pump

CHURCH LEADERS GIVE BLESSING TO PLASTIC-FREE FAITH EASTER EGG

The Archbishop of York and the lead Bishop for the environment have welcomed a 'plastic free' version of The Real Easter Egg.

Out of the 80 million eggs sold in the UK every year The Real Easter Egg is the only one which includes a 24 page copy of the Easter story in the box, is Fairtrade and supports charitable causes. And now, this year the Real Easter Egg is going plastic-free.

The change is in response to a survey which found that 96% of Christians think it is important for Easter Eggs to be plastic-free and news that 11.5 million tonnes of food packaging waste is produced every year.

David Marshall from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, who make the Real Easter Egg, said: "Easter eggs don't have to cost the earth. We have replaced plastic bags, tamper-seals and Best Before stickers with paper versions. There is still the same amount of chocolate in the Real Easter Egg and the box sizes are the same, but the redesign means our Dark and Original Egg will save at least 5 tonnes of plastic and 175 tonnes of card in the next five years."



The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, said; "I am delighted that an Easter Egg, which shares the Story of Easter, is leading the way by reducing packaging."

The Bishop of Salisbury, The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, said; "As the lead bishop on the environment for the Church of England I am delighted that an Easter Egg, is taking seriously the care of our planet."

Source: Parish Pump – church News

EVENTS

Gravesend: the day before yesterday (illustrated talk & supper).

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Monday 29th April 2019

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins: 6pm for supper, talk to follow

Cost: £15 includes fish supper and talk. Limited spaces, unpaid tickets will be sold on.

Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant [01474 533593](tel:01474 533593)

How Gravesend has changed so much in our lifetimes, this talk explores some of those alterations, good & bad.

It's Northfleet, but not as we know it: How Northfleet has been transformed over the past century (illustrated talk)

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Thursday 2nd May 2019

At: Ye Olde Coach & Horses, The Hill, Northfleet DA11 9EU – talk located in separate accommodation from the bar.

Begins: 6.30pm for 7pm – with a break half way through the talk.

Cost: £4 – pay on the night. Food and drink are available for purchase – pie & mash or a selection of snacks.

Information: Christoph Bull [07702287147](tel:07702287147)

Come and enjoy a relaxed evening discovering Northfleet's recent past in the town's oldest public house.

Who's who in Hoo: (illustrated talk & supper)

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Monday 13th May 2019:

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins: 6pm for supper, talk to follow

Cost: £15 includes fish supper and talk. Limited spaces, unpaid tickets will be sold on.

Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant [01474 533593](tel:01474 533593)

A talk about the Hoo peninsula and the fascinating places that are to be found within this lovely landscape, preceded by award winning food.

TUESDAY 30TH APRIL 2019

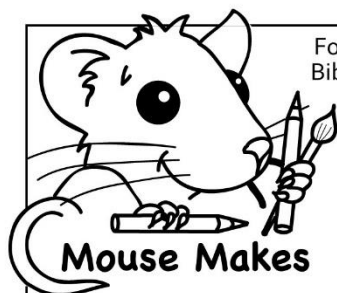


THE TRANSFERRED
SOLEMNITY OF SAINT GEORGE
THE MARTYR
PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND



9.30AM - SAID MASS AND 7.30PM — MASS WITH HYMNS

*The observance of all memorials and feasts falling in the week between Easter Day and the Sunday following lapses. Solemnities, however, such as St George's Day is moved to the first 'free' day after the Easter Octave.
Monday 29th is not 'free' as it is the feast of S.Catherine of Siena.*

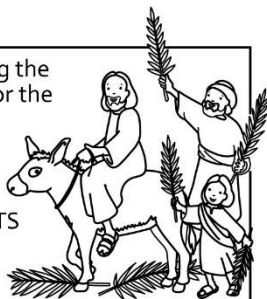


Follow the **Easter story** using the Bible references, then look for the words in the puzzle.

Into Jerusalem

read *Matthew 21:1-11*

DONKEY • ROAD • COATS
BRANCHES • PALMS
KING • HOSANNA



The Last Supper

read

Matthew 26:17-30

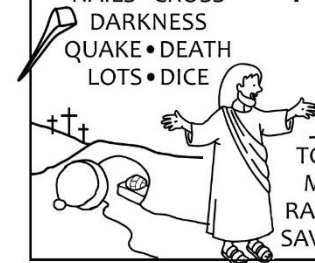
TWELVE DISCIPLES
PASSOVER
ROOM • BREAD
WINE • SON • MAN
BODY • BLOOD
CUP • MEAL



Betrayal and Death

read *Matthew 26:36-27:56*

GETHESEMANE
PRAY • BETRAY
KISS • ARREST
MESSIAH • CHRIST
SON • ACCUSED
CRUCIFY • JESUS
CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE
NAILS • CROSS
DARKNESS
QUAKE • DEATH
LOTS • DICE



Burial and Resurrection

read *Matthew 27:57-28:20*

TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS
MORNING • MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • LORD • GOD
RAISED • JOY • GO TELL • GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT
SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER • I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

B R A N C H E S S E T S
C E L O R D O N K E Y H K O
A L T S K M E S S I A H J B O G
T I R S C U P A S S O V E R A E
W A A K J E A N O S W I N E C T
E M Y M E A L N N O Q U B A C H
L W R O A D M A N B L O O D U S
V I S L C K S C R O S S D A S E
E T U Q O Y C R U C I F Y A E M
D H D E A T H O R N S N U T D A
I Y M I T G R W M A R Y C H Y N
S O F V S K I N G I V I T R E E
C U P P N Y S K H L A N G E L R
I A R R E S T Y E S T O N E I O
P L M A C K U Q A B O D Y D N B
L W O Y G O T U V I M S E A E E
E A R O O M O A E Q B U R Y N L
S Y N K D A R K N E S S A S D O
K S I P E A C E N J S P I R I T
I W N J G O O D N E W S S T C S
T O G O T E L L A S O N E T E S
A B Y S A V I O U R S D U C
P R A I S E A E A S T E R R



April 2019 Donation Guide

PLEASE NOTE: FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH THE FOODBANK HAVE SPECIALLY REQUESTED THAT WE GIVE PRIORITY TO THE HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS BELOW.

- ✓ **Shaving foam/gel**
- ✓ **Body spray**
- ✓ **Squash/ fruit juices**
- ✓ **Custard**
- ✓ **Rice pudding**
- ✓ **Tinned fish**
- ✓ **Smash/ tinned potatoes**
- ✓ **Shampoo and conditioner**

Also required:

- Household cleaners, washing up liquid' spray polish
 - Deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap
 - Ladies personal toiletries, toilet rolls
 - Nappies size 4 & 5
 - Rice
 - Tinned meat products – ham, corned beef, and tinned meals
 - No fridge/UHT milk
 - Custard
 - Instant noodles and Instant cous cous Laundry tablets
 - Shower gels
-
- All types of tinned vegetables incl. Tinned potatoes Tinned spaghetti
 - Packet soup
-
- Vegetarian foods
 - Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, sugar.
 - Jars of pasta sauce
 - Cereals, cereal bars, sweet & chocolate biscuits
 - Tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit, sponge puddings,
 - Marmite, Jam/peanut butter

THE COLLECTION BOX WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH DURING THE LAST WEEKEND OF APRIL FROM FRIDAY TO MONDAY

Thank You very much for your support

Gravesham Foodbank hosted by RCCG Life Start
Connections & supported by Gravesham Churches Together
Registered charity number 1135341 Registered in England & Wales
graveshamfoodbank@gmail.com www.gravesham.foodbank.org.uk



NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

We had an enjoyable meeting this month full of glitter and sparkle. We welcomed a lovely lady called Alison Ellman-Brown as our guest speaker. Her talk was on buttons. Buttons, you may wonder what is so fascinating. Well there were buttons we all remembered from our childhood, there were all shapes and sizes as well as buckles representing our arts and heritage.



Buttons were first discovered around 2000 BC in bronze age sites in China and Ancient Rome. Often made from seashells, they were used as an ornamentation rather than as a fastening. More functional use appeared in Germany in the 13th century and soon became widespread throughout Europe. Keeping hold of these small items links us to a past and should be preserved for future generations. They show us a way of life that has long since gone.

We also had another instalment of our postcard challenge. This month's theme was hearts and brought out some lovely work.



If you would like to come along and see what we do, and maybe join our happy band, you will find like-minded members of all ages and different experiences.

Have a look at our web site where you will find all the information you need - www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk

You will always find a warm welcome, a cup of tea and home-made cake... come along, it may start you on your own stitching journey.

Happy Stitching....

Antoinette

VILLAGE DIARY APRIL 2019

Wed	3 rd	Brownies and Rainbows- Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	4 th	W.I. meeting - Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Fri	5 th	HiARA Activities- Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sat	6 th	Lent Lunch - Vestry Hall 12.00 - 1.30pm
Mon	8 th	Higham Parish Council - Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Thurs	11 th	Apri'l 'Requiem' Intention at 7.30pm Higham Parish Council - Annual Parish Assembly- Memorial Hall 7.30pm Talk: by Tammy Woodhouse on "The History of Millbrook Garden Centre"
Fri	12 th	HiARA Activitiess - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sat	13 th	Lent Lunch - Vestry Hall 12.00 - 1.30pm
Sun	14th	PALM SUNDAY (Starting at 12 Villa Road) The Blessing of Palms, Procession to Church and Solemn Mass - 9.30 Boot Fair - Memorial Hall
Thurs	18 th	MAUNDY THURSDAY - Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper 8pm
Fri	19 th	GOOD FRIDAY: 3PM Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Sat	20 th	HOLY SATURDAY -Solemn Vigil, Renewal of Baptismal Vows and First Mass of Easter 9pm
Sun	21 st	EASTER DAY - Mass 10am
Wed	24 th	Brownies and Rainbows- Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	26 th	HiARA AGM - Memorial Hall - 2pm-4pm Beavers - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Tues	30 th	THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT GEORGE - Said Mass 9.30am Mass with Hymns 7.30pm

CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

FEBRUARY 2019

£50	226	Mrs Elder
£10	207	Mrs Holloway

NEXT DRAW 25TH MARCH